



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

January 19, 2000

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Cynthia Bearer  
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Neurosciences  
Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital  
11100 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland Ohio 44106

Dear Dr. Bearer:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2000, concerning the Science Advisory Board's (SAB) review of the Draft Cancer Risk Assessment Guidelines' Application to Children and your concern about Agency action on the Guidelines.

First, let me say that I appreciate your continuing involvement in providing advice that is helping to shape the revisions to the Agency's Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment. Through one Advisory and three closely related Reports over the past few years, the SAB has helped to air the scientific issues associated with these difficult and important issues. In particular, I am pleased by the SAB's efforts to include members of the pediatric community, such as yourself, in the recent reviews of scientific issues that affect children.

Second, I note that a majority of the SAB reviewers recommend that the Agency should consolidate the progress made to date and issue the Guidelines promptly, while, at the same time, undertaking a program of research and risk assessment development to address more completely the issue of childhood susceptibility. The results of that research would be reflected in future revisions of the Guidelines. Other reviewers believe that the Agency should address fully the needed research regarding children's risk before finalizing the Guidelines. I believe that this lack of consensus accurately reflects the diversity of opinions that exists in the scientific community, while simultaneously providing a range of options for the Agency to consider.

Third, I am committed to an external peer review process that actively seeks and accurately reflects the input of the scientific community as we move forward toward finalization of the Guidelines.

Thank you again for raising these issues. I hope that you and your colleagues in the pediatric community will continue to help this Agency to do the right thing, for us and for our children.

Sincerely,

/S/

Carol M. Browner